

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING AND OBTAINING
RESOURCE USAGE INFORMATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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- The invention is directed to techniques for providing and obtaining, from a network node (e.g., a router, bridge, hub, switch, etc.), resource usage information describing usage of resources within the network node. In one arrangement, a system includes a source computer which provides a data element, and a network node coupled
- 10 to the source computer. The network node forms at least a portion of a network with the source computer. The network node is configured to receive the data element from the source computer, determine that the data element is stale based on a parameter within the data element, remove the data element from the network and send a signal to the source computer. The signal includes (i) an indication that the network node has
- 15 removed the data element from the network, and (ii) resource usage information describing usage of resources within the network node.

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